

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 DHA-02 EB-08 OMB-01
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P 151603Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7238
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US, SF
SUBJECT: BOTHA COMMENTS ON US-UK-SA TALKS IN LONDON

1. MOST DETAILED LONDON PRESS COVERAGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN
FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REACTIONS TO AUGUST 12 TRI-
LATERAL MEETING APPEARED IN AUGUST 14 EDITION OF "SUNDAY
TELEGRAPH".

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF COLUMN BY TELEGRAPH COR-
RESPONDENT PEREGRINE WORSTHORNE BASED ON INTERVIEW
GRANTED WORSTHORNE BY BOTHA AT SAVOY HOTEL.

3. BEGIN TEXT: MR. "PIK" BOTHA, THE SOUTH AFRICAN
FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID YESTERDAY THAT MR. IAN SMITH MAY
HAVE REJECTED THE LAST ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR A RHO-
DESIAN SETTLEMENT BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT
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WHAT IT PROPOSED IN THE CRUCIAL FIELD OF SECURITY.
THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS INCENSED BY WHAT HE
TOOK TO BE A PROPOSAL TO MERGE THE TERRORIST GUERRILLA
FORCES WITH THE EXISTING SECURITY FORCES. BUT, ACCORD-
ING TO MR. BOTHA, THIS WAS NOT QUITE WHAT THE WESTERN
POWERS WERE PROPOSING.
HE LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NEW PROPO-

SALS, AT PRESENT BEING WORKED OUT, WOULD CONTAIN NO SUCH PROVOCATIVELY UNACCEPTABLE PROVISION AND MIGHT THEREFORE FIND A WARMER RECEPTION IN SALISBURY.

ALTHOUGH SUFFERING FROM FLU, MR. BOTHA SEEMED IN CONFIDENT SPIRITS, SHOWERING ADJECTIVES OF PRAISE ON THE TALKS HE HAD ON FRIDAY WITH HIS BRITISH AND AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS, DR. OWEN AND MR. VANCE.

THEY HAD, HE SAID, "BEEN SIX TOUGH HOURS BUT THEY HAD GONE TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER AND WERE USEFUL, SERIOUS, DETAILED AND VALUABLE AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED. WE TALKED STRAIGHT TO ONE ANOTHER." FROM AN AFRIKANER, THERE COULD BE NO GREATER COMMENDATION.

THE CURRENT ATTEMPT TO FIND A SETTLEMENT, HE WENT ON, "IS A SINCERE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING. I CANNOT TELL YOU TO WHAT EXTENT THE PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND EXPLAINED." BUT AT THIS STAGE AT ANY RATE, MR. BOTHA WAS AT LEAST GIVING THEM A FAIR WIND.

ALL PARTIES TO THE TALKS AGREED ON THE URGENCY OF FINDING AN EARLY SOLUTION, SINCE THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS BEING JEOPARDIZED BY THE CONTINUING CONFLICT, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF OLD DISEASES BREAKING OUT AFRESH FOR LACK OF EFFECTIVE HEALTH PLANNING.

Q: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA?

WORDS CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
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STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE ONLY SOLUTION THAT WILL WORK IN RHODESIA IN THE LONG RUN WILL BE AN INTERNAL ONE. THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE COUNTRY MUST CERTAINLY ACCEPT IT. IT IS NOT FOR YOU OR ME OR ANYBODY THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY; THE PEOPLE INSIDE MUST ACCEPT. IT WILL BE IN THE INTERESTS OF RHODESIANS FIRST OF ALL TO TRY TO SEEK A SOLUTION THAT WILL GET INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.

Q: IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, WHAT WOULD SOUTH AFRICA DO?

I REALLY CANNOT SAY. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF ANY SOLUTION THAT WILL CARRY THE BROAD SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY.

Q: IT IS REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE UNITED STATES IS VERY ANXIOUS THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD PUT MORE PRESSURE ON SMITH TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE BLACK MAJORITY. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN THE SUGGESTION THAT AMERICA SHOULD USE ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. HOW SERIOUSLY DO YOU TAKE THAT KIND OF POSSIBILITY?

IT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, BUT IN THE LAST RESORT, SOUTH AFRICA DECIDES AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WHETHER THAT IS THE WAY THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OUGHT TO BE PRODUCED. WE ARE BEING

URGED TO CLOSE THE DOORS TO PEOPLE TRADING WITH RHODESIA.
BUT TRADE IS A PRIVATE MATTER, WHICH ALSO AFFECTS THE
BLACK PEOPLE OF RHODESIA, WHO HAVE TO LIVE AND HAVE

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WORK. THAT IS NOT THE WAY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WE
DON'T BELIEVE IN CLOSING DOORS; WE DON'T BELIEVE YOU
ACHIEVE PEACE IN THAT WAY.
Q: HOW DAMAGING WOULD AMERICAN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
BE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA?
I THINK YOU MUST ASK THAT QUESTION OF THE AMERICANS.
WE DON'T WANT IT; NATURALLY, IT WOULD NOT BE THE KIND OF
THING WE WOULD LIKE. IT IS NOT OUR CHOICE. YOU CANNOT,
IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE, KNOCK PEOPLE OVER THE HEADS TO
MAKE THEM DO SOMETHING. THAT IS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. RHODESIA IS NOT A CREATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA IS AN INDEPENDENT STATE. WE
TOOK OUR PLACES IN TWO WORLD WARS. WE PAID OUR DEBTS.
WE DON'T OWE OTHER COUNTRIES ANYTHING. IF OTHERS WANT TO
DO THAT TO US, LET THEM GO AHEAD. WE WILL SURVIVE.

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FINALLY, I ASKED MR. BOTHA ABOUT MR. BREZHNEV'S
DRAMATIC WARNING ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA HAVING DEVELOPED A
NUCLEAR BOMB. THAT, HE SAID, WAS "PROPAGANDA."
ONLY RECENTLY "THE RUSSIANS WERE OPPOSING SOUTH
AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY, ON THE GROUNDS THAT WE DO NOT POSSESS THE NECES-
SARY TECHNICAL KNOW HOW. NOW IT SEEMS WE HAVE TOO MUCH.
THEY REALLY MUST MAKE UP THEIR MINDS."
COFFEE PRECEDED THIS INTERVIEW, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A
SUITE AT THE SAVOY. MR. BOTHA COMPLAINED ABOUT HIS CUP
BEING EXCESSIVELY BLACK. AN AIDE POURED IN A LITTLE
WHITE WHICH SEEMED TO MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE--A SYMBOL,
PERHAPS, OF WHAT HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO DURING HIS
LONDON VISIT. END TEXT

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